

## BEFORE THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN IN THE MATTER OF

## AL HAJ MIAN LIAQUAT ALI & DR. SHAZIA LIAQUAT OF LIAQUAT HOSPITAL, LAHORE (F. NO: 143/OFT/LHOSPITAL/CCP/2013)

Dates of hearing: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015

15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

Present: Ms. Vadiyya Khalil

Chairperson

Dr. Joseph Wilson

Member

Dr. Shahzad Ansar

Member

Mr. Ikram Ul Haque Qureshi

Member

On behalf of:

Dr. Al Haj Mian Liaquat Ali Syed Mansoor Ali Bukhari,

Advocate Supreme Court

Dr. Shazia Liaquat

Fayyaz Sindhu Advocate

Mr. Ashfaq Ali

## ORDER

- 1. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (the 'Commission'), upon receipt of complaints alleging deceptive marketing by Al Haaj Mian Liaquat Ali of Liaquat Hospital Lahore and Dr. Shazia Liaquat (the 'Respondents') through its television commercial (TVC) in violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010 (the 'Act'), initiated an inquiry into the matter in terms of Section 37(2) of the Act.
- 2. The inquiry was concluded vide inquiry report dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (the 'Inquiry Report'). Based on the findings of the Inquiry Report a show cause notices were issued to the Respondents on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.
- 3. On November 11, 2014 Syed Mansoor Ali Bhukari Advocate Supreme Court appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Respondents and argued the matter at length and counsel gave the following undertaking before the Commission:

"Suitable alteration in the advertisements will be made and which will be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration and approval"

- 4. Despite this undertaking, however, no revised TVC has been submitted to the Commission till date. Moreover, the Commission has become aware that since the last hearing the Respondents have started airing the TVC on other channels in different languages.
- 5. During the hearing on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the Commission noted that the continued airing of the TVC was likely to cause serious damage, and therefore, in the public interest, it was necessary to issue an interim order under Section 31 of the Act till the conclusion of the proceedings. The Respondent's counsel, upon being given an opportunity to make his arguments on this matter, stated that he had no objection in this regard.

- 6. Therefore, we hereby order the Respondent:
  - a. To immediately stop airing the TVC in any language and on all channels till the conclusion of proceedings; and
  - b. To file written commitment with the Registrar of the Commission, to his satisfaction and no later than ten day from the date of this order, that they would comply with the statement made by their counsel during the hearing on 15-01-2015; and
  - c. To file a compliance report within fifteen days from the date of order with regard to directions given in the two paragraphs above.

(Ms. Vadiyya Khalil) (Dr. Joseph Wilson) (Dr. Shehzad Ansar) (Mr. Ikram Ul Haque Qureshi) *Chairperson Member Member Member* 

ISLAMABAD THE 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015